

Application No. 10/038,630  
Paper Dated May 24, 2004  
Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 24, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. 3675-010819

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete and replace the current paragraphs with the following replacement paragraph.

[0024] As illustrated in Fig. 6, the activation portion 38 is in communication with, or integrated with, a signal switch 42. The signal switch 42 produces a data signal based on some activity surrounding the activation portion 38 of the adapter element 30. This data signal is then transmitted through the adapter element communication line 44 to an external control unit 45 (See Fig. 3) (~~not shown~~). It is envisioned that the signal switch 42 may also include an analog/digital signal converter 46 for converting an analog signal received from the activation portion 38 to a digital signal. For example, when the operation signal is created through a user's pressure on the activation portion 38 of the adapter element 30, when the user "touches" the activation portion 38, the analog data signal received by the signal switch 42 is a pressure signal. Next, the analog signal is converted to a digital signal by the analog/digital signal converter 46 and transmitted through the adapter element communication line 44 to an external control unit 45. Similarly, if the activation signal is heat, when a user touches the activation portion 38, the analog data signal of heat is converted by the analog/digital signal converter 46 to a digital signal and, as above, passed to the external control unit 45 through the communication line 44.

[0025] As the typical prior art switch housing assembly 26 uses a tubular switch orifice 32, it is envisioned that the adapter element 30, as well as the activation portion 38 of the adapter element 30, are tubular in shape and particularly adapted to engage the switch orifice 32. Further, the data signal which emanates from the signal switch 42 and, if present, the analog/digital signal converter 46, may be passed through the adapter element communication line 44, which may be a phone line or a local area network line, whichever is suitable in operating the system and in communicating with the external control unit 45.

[0028] In operation, when the fluid control switch 28 is engaged with the switch housing assembly 26, a user need only touch the activation portion 38 of the adapter element 30, which allows the signal switch 42 to produce a data signal. The data signal is transmitted to an external {W0122432.1}

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control unit 45, which then activates a control valve 22, thereby allowing fluid to flow through the electronically-operated flow valve 20, and further through the faucet 18 associated with the switch housing assembly 26. Since the fluid control switch 28 is engaged such that the activation portion 38 is flush with or extends slightly beyond the switch orifice rim 34, the activation portion 38 can be easily accessed by a finger or wrist of a user. Further, since the activation portion 38 is not a mechanical push button 14, it has no moving parts, and is not subject to wear-and-tear.